



Pennington County DUI Court

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Pennington County's Seventh Judicial Circuit Court Celebrates National Drug Court Month with DUI Court Commencement Celebration

Rapid City, SD – In celebration of National Drug Court Month, the Seventh Judicial Circuit Court is proud to announce the next commencement ceremony for participants completing the Pennington County DUI Court program. The ceremony will be held on Wednesday, May 24, 2017. Since the Pennington County DUI Court's origination in 2013, this commencement will mark the eighth for the program.

National Drug Court Month is coordinated by the National Association of Drug Court Professionals (NADCP). Since 1989, treatment courts have saved over 1.5 million lives and billions of tax dollars. There are nearly 3,200 treatment courts in operation in all 50 states plus US territories. These treatment courts successfully treat close to 150,000 substance-addicted individuals each year. Treatment courts not only diverts individuals from a life of substance abuse and crime, but they have been proven to reduce use of jail or prison beds, emergency room admissions, family conflicts associated with domestic violence and child abuse, and foster care placements. Treatment courts deliver services for lifelong recovery, keep our roads safe from impaired drivers, and give parents the tools they need to stay clean and maintain custody of their children. Research continues to show that treatment courts work better than jail or prison, better than probation, and better than treatment alone. Nationally, 75% of individuals who complete treatment court programs are not re-arrested.

The Pennington County DUI Court program is working with community partners to meet the needs and better the lives of both the participants and our community. The program reduces local and state correctional costs, enhances community safety, and improves public welfare by providing close supervision and comprehensive treatment to participants. Participants are held accountable through regular appearances before the DUI Court judge, frequent and random drug testing, daily alcohol testing, addiction and mental health treatment, behavior modification based on incentives and sanctions, and intense community supervision by the DUI Court team. The program reduces addiction, crime, and recidivism while saving lives, families, and valuable resources for our state.

With the benefit of DUI Court, these three graduates being honored have avoided a combined total of 7,665 days in prison. They have completed an average of 536 days in DUI Court, and they have achieved a combined total of 2,003 days of sobriety. These three graduates were able to successfully complete the program with no relapses. They completed a combined total of 1,608 days of alcohol-free PBTs or SCRAM testing through the 24/7 Program and they completed a combined total of more than 370 drug-free urinalyses. The Pennington County DUI Court team invites you to join them in recognizing the remarkable accomplishments of these graduates. The ceremony is open to the public, media, and cameras. A reception will follow.

If you have questions or want to learn more about the Pennington County DUI Court program, please contact Coordinator Ashlee Cook at Ashlee.Cook@ujs.state.sd.us or at (605) 394-2595.